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*Lyrics* edited by Chambers and Sidgwick, including the famous "Cockoo Song" beginning "Somer is ycomen in." The other distinct difference from Palgrave is at the other end of the line, namely, in the lyrics of later writers. It is well known that Palgrave's chief adviser in his final selection of lyrics to include in his volume was the poet laureate, Lord Tennyson, and it was a source of keen regret to the editor not to be able to include in his *Golden Treasury* a single poem of his distinguished mentor. Mr. Hepple has not excluded living writers from his collection, and he has the advantage over Palgrave of the inclusion of many poems from the hands of poets who have died since Palgrave's work came out. In addition, a few American poets are included. Poe is represented by "The Bells," Longfellow by "The Rainy Day" and two sonnets, Bryant by "To a Water-Fowl," Lowell by "A June Day" from *The Vision of Sir Launfal*, and Bret Harte by "What the Bullet Sang." To many American readers this meager selection will seem but a small sop, but when we consider the purpose of the collection, the desire of the author to secure representative selections of the whole range of the lyric, and the distinct limitation of the interests of the English secondary-school student, criticism is silenced.

L. W. PAYNE, JR.

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS  
AUSTIN, TEX.

#### BUSINESS ENGLISH

*Business English.* By EDWIN HERBERT LEWIS, PH.D., LL.D., Professor of English, Lewis Institute, Chicago. Chicago: Published by LaSalle Extension University, 1911. Pp. 287.

This is a lively book on a live subject. Its style, which is as characteristic as that of the *Compleat Angler*, will reconcile scholars to the task of teaching business English, if anything will; their interest in its subject-matter, on the other hand, may lead many business men and business women unconsciously if not consciously to acquire a feeling for artistic expression. Those who know Dr. Lewis will not be much surprised to find that the work is that of a scholar and a wit, but they may not expect to find in the book the wealth of solid practical matter which it contains. Both elements are here and it is a happy union.

We have always supposed that there are only two kinds of English, good English and bad English. We are happy to be able to announce that Dr. Lewis is apparently of the same opinion. He says in his preface that he has aimed to produce a book which should take into consideration the best standards and scholarship of college teaching and

apply the established principles of composition to the special problems of business, with due reference to the vocabularies of commerce and commercial law. Written originally for college men who were beginning their studies in engineering, the text has been somewhat simplified with the idea of making it serviceable in the third and fourth years of technical and commercial high schools, in business colleges, and in correspondence work. To the writer of this review it seems possible that it might with profit be used in academic high schools also, say in the third or fourth year. Business interests, as Dr. Lewis says, are stronger in most boys than most teachers appreciate and due consideration of them will often arouse constructive power in minds which respond to no other stimulus.

Whether the book will be effective or not in high-school classrooms can, however, be determined only by the experiment of actual teaching. For this purpose its organization is apt to prove faulty. Probably there are too many pages devoted to theory and too few to exercises. To put the matter a little differently, it may be that there is too much of the deductive and not enough of the inductive. It will all depend on how far the book arouses the interest of the boy or girl into whose hands it is put. If its subject-matter makes a strong appeal to them, it will matter little what the method or order of topics is; if it does not make a strong appeal, the method and order of topics will not make or mar the usefulness of the book to any appreciable extent.

To students of engineering, however, to young men and women already at work in offices, to mature business men anxious to improve their grasp on the subject of business English, and to all grown-up people who can appreciate a piece of good writing, the book will be at once an inspiration and a delight. We predict that it will become the *vade mecum* of many an ambitious youth. As we have already hinted, it deserves, by reason of its style alone, to be included in libraries along with the *Compleat Angler*. A quotation or two will show what we mean:

"In the phrase *No, price too high* the comma is a signal of danger. Omit it and you have *No price too high*. A California man once wired the former phrase to his agent; the telegraph company omitted the comma; and the error cost the sender some thousands. But the fault was his. Telegraph companies do not contract to transmit punctuation. He should have worded his message so that it would have been punctuation tight."

"The abbreviations *inst.*, *prox.*, *ult.*, may well be relegated to the scrap heap. They are relics of outworn majesty."

"Jas., Chas., Thos., Wm., etc., are permissible, but no man so named ever felt offended to find his name spelled out."

"If you are going to use slang, use it. Do not strew your pages with apologetic quotation marks. Take the responsibility or else leave the stuff alone. Nothing is gained by coy approaches to vulgarism. It is irritating to see the pages of business magazines peppered with quoted slang. It reminds you of the Frenchman who, when the coach was overturned, stepped out on a lady's head and said, 'By your leave, madam?'"

"A poor-farm is not necessarily a poor farm."

"*Bonus*. Something given in addition to what is strictly due. It is pure Latin, and means 'a good thing'; or rather it is impure Latin, for the strictly correct form would be *bonum*. Slang, you see, may lurk even in Latin."

"'Thanking you in advance' is the trademark of the man of nerve, not of the man of the world."

The book contains 287 pages, of which 207 are devoted to the exposition of the subject, 76 to exercises, and 4 to an index. Among the titles of chapters are: "Definition of Business English," "The Paragraph vs. the Long Sentence"; "Punctuation, an Art"; "The Mastery of the Hyphen"; "The History of Business Words"; "Tone, or Degrees of Dignity"; "Business Narration"; "Business Reports"; "Advertisement English"; "The Business Letter in Detail."

All teachers of English, whether they teach business English or not, should own and study the book. It is replete with concrete suggestions that can be used in the classroom.

EDWIN L. MILLER

CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL  
DETROIT, MICH.